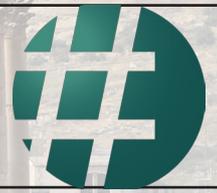


# UrbNet highlights 2016



## Vision

Centre for Urban Network Evolutions (UrbNet) explores the archaeology and history of urban societies and their networks from the Ancient Mediterranean to medieval Northern Europe and to the Indian Ocean World.

We are an interdisciplinary research initiative, which integrates new methods from the natural sciences with contextual cultural studies rooted in the humanities.

Approaching urbanism as a network dynamic, we aim to develop a high-definition archaeology to determine how urban networks catalysed societal and environmental expansions and crises in the past.

## Glass from Jerash

A project was finalised on the chemical analysis of glass artefacts from ancient Gerasa, modern Jerash, Jordan. The study highlighted some very strong systematics relating to the import and recycling of this ware group that have not previously been observed for contemporary sites. A major study is underway that will include, among other things, firing experimental studies on the olive-pit finds to determine how their ashes would contaminate glass, and what it can tell us about the conditions under which the glasses were remelted.



Glass bead close-up (Photo: Gry H. Barfod).



Uncovering the stratigraphic layers (Photo: Søren M. Sindbæk).

## Northern Emporium

The Carlsberg Foundation awarded a grant of 15.5 million DKK for the project *Northern Emporium* (directed by Professor Søren M. Sindbæk) to be affiliated to UrbNet. The project aims to explore the evolution and dynamics of the earliest urban network in Scandinavia based on a comprehensive, stratigraphic excavation of settlement and workshop layers in a central part of the earliest Ribe, one of the richest archaeological sites of the North-Sea trading world, which emerged in the eighth century CE.

## International collaboration

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UrbNet and *Max-Weber-Kolleg* (MKW), Universität Erfurt, Germany, furthering the scientific relationship between the two institutions within a context of the social and human sciences. As part of the agreement, world-renowned Professor Jörg Rüpke (MKW) was awarded a prolongation of his adjunct professorship at Aarhus University.

UrbNet also signed an ERASMUS agreement with Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Institute for Classical Archaeology, headed by Professor Annette Haug. The agreement promotes exchange on MA, PhD and staff level.

## Awards

Luise Ø. Brandt received the *L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Award* for her interdisciplinary work on proteins and DNA in archaeological skin and textiles.



## Statistics

PhD courses organised: 3  
Conferences/workshops organised: 15  
Lectures/seminars organised: 43  
Invited talks: 127  
Press and media appearances: 47  
Publications: 48